

10 Stop the War candidates fighting in Dorset

The largest group of anti-war candidates in the country will be standing in Dorset in the council elections. Dorset Stop the War party is fielding 10 candidates on 1st May.

Damien Stone, who is standing in Wimborne, said: "We are delighted to be able to say that in a little under two weeks we have managed to register ourselves as a political party and will be fielding candidates across Dorset, from West to East, including four in Bournemouth and three in Poole. Thousands of people will have the opportunity to vote against this war at the ballot box.

"This is the largest slate of anti-war candidates in the entire country and we believe that we attract support from all the other parties and indeed from many voters who have previously stayed at home."

He explained that their campaign is relevant in these local elections: "No doubt, in the course of this campaign we will hear Labour and Conservative councillors claim that they will keep council tax lower than the other parties. These councillors however belong to political parties that are happy to see £5 billion spent on an illegal war. That money would be spent in our local communities. All their talk of keeping council tax low is a deceit."



David Stancliffe, the Bishop of Salisbury leads the prayers at the vigil in Poole Park. *SMphoto*

Prayers for peace

SEVERAL hundred people joined the Bishop of Salisbury, David Stancliffe, and leaders of other faiths for a vigil in Poole Park last week and were invited to join hands, symbolising their mutual trust while making the declaration: "We are fellow human beings. Today we acknowledge our unity and we celebrate our diversity. We recognise our dependence upon one another. We accept our responsibility to care for one another. And we declare our commitment to live in peace."

CASTLE (2) – Poppy Baker (Diana) (Lib Dem), Edward Burt* (Cons), Lucy Clark (Cons), Michael Daymond (Lib Dem).

WEST MOORS (3) – Alexander Clarke* (Cons), Alan Dedden (Lib Dem), David Durley* (Cons), Frank Gardiner (Lib Dem), Jeanne Roberts (Lib Dem), Michael Shine (Lab), Andrew Skeats (Cons).

WIMBORNE MINSTER (3) – Ivy Ellis (Cons), Alan Flint* (Cons), Patricia Hymers* (Lib Dem), David Morgan (Lib Dem), Marilyn Osner (Lib Dem), Christine Reaks (Cons), Damien Stone (Dorset Stop the War), Geoffrey Stone (Dorset Stop the War).

Community Magazines 10/4/2003

Conservatives, 23 Liberal Democrats and three Independents on the council.

The full list of nominations for New Forest District Council (Community Magazines' area) is:

DOWNLANDS & FOREST (1) – Katherine Heron (Cons), Janet Richards (Green), Miranda Whitehead (Lib Dem).

FORDINGBRIDGE (2) – Robert Hale* (Lib Dem), Roger Kernan (Cons), Michael Shand* (Lib Dem).

RINGWOOD SOUTH (2) – Peter Chambers (Lib Dem), Belinda Charlton

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BOROUGH OF POOLE

POOLE's 42 seats have attracted 109 nominations including three from Dorset Stop the War.

All 16 wards are being contested in what could be a close fought battle for control of the council.

Currently Poole has a hung council comprising 39 Councillors – 19 Liberal Democrats, 17

Conservatives and 3 Labour. Three new wards are being introduced – Hamworthy East and Hamworthy West will replace Hamworthy ward, Canford Heath East and Canford Heath West

ALDERNEY (3) – Kevin Davis (Dorset Stop the War), Robert Dugdale* (Lib Dem), Wendy Herring (Cons), John Hewinson (Lab), Susan Luckham (Cons), Charles Meachin* (Lib Dem), Anthony Trent* (Lib Dem), Gary Williams (Lab), Ann Williams (Lab), Humphry Woolrych (Cons).

BRANKSOME EAST (2) – Juliette Alchin (Lib Dem), Matthew Gillett (Lib Dem), Mary Hillman (Cons), Harry Pethen* (Cons).

BRANKSOME WEST (2) – Philip Eades (Lib Dem), Marie Krolski (Cons), Joyce Lavender (Cons), Marion Le Poidevin (Lib Dem).

BROADSTONE (3) – Michael Brooke (Lib Dem),

Hives (Cons), Jane James* (Lib Dem), Philip James (Lib Dem), Philip Jones (Cons), Leslie Legg* (Lib Dem).

NEWTOWN (3) – Marjorie Benyon (Cons), Brian Clements* (Lib Dem), Paul Dickens (Lab), Colette Dickens (Lab), Allison Gregory (Cons), Michael Plummer* (Lib Dem), Sheila Roberts (Cons), Paul Westbrook-Merry (Lab), Graham Wilson* (Lib Dem).

OAKDALE (3) – Peter Adams (Cons), Osman Ahmed (Dorset Stop the War), David Chicksen (Lib Dem), Brian Ellis* (Lab), Catherine Gardner (Lib Dem), David Gillard

Wimborne Community Magazine

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Dorset fields country's largest anti-war party

PEACEFUL rural Dorset is the unlikely setting for the largest anti-war political party in the country.

Modern Wessex is not renowned for its militancy but the war in Iraq has spurred local doves into action. Wimborne Town Councillor Damien Stone resigned from the Labour Party in November 2002 over the war and has been a leading light in the local anti-war movement.

He formed the Dorset Stop the War party in March and registered it in time to submit 10 nominations for candidates in the county's local elections. These include three in Poole and two in East Dorset.

All the nominations for the elections are now in with candidates standing from a total of six parties – Conservatives, Liberal Democrats, Labour, Dorset Stop the War, Green and UK Independence in addition to Independents.

Community Magazines has compiled a comprehensive list of candidates and those who will be standing down on 1st May and details of the current make up of the five councils in the area. For more information see pages 32 and 33.



VICTORIAN schooldays came back to life when youngsters from Wimborne small schools' cluster joined together for a musical adventure. All ready for fun are Sarah Burkin from Hayeswood First, Jack Marley from St Catherine's RC Primary, William Gourley, Colehill First and Alexandra Millard, St John's First. See page 8 to find out how they went on. *LT photo.*

Stop the war meeting in Wimborne

THE Dorset Stop The War Party is to hold a public meeting in Wimborne Town Hall on 9th April, as a backdrop to the launch of its local election campaign.

Wimborne councillor Damien Stone - who is standing for both town and district seats in Wimborne - said: "It is important for us to continue piling the pressure on the Government in order to help bring about a swift end to the conflict in Iraq. Just because the fighting has now started does not mean that this War has become any more just or legal". Only two other counties in the UK have registered Stop The War parties to field candidates for the local elections which take place on 1st May. The meeting in Wimborne Town Hall begins at 8pm.

Anti-war protestors to fight on 1st May

THE Dorset Stop The War Coalition is to fight the forthcoming local elections. Wimborne councillor Damien Stone - organiser of Bruce Kent's recent visit to Wimborne - is looking for people to stand as candidates. "The recent crisis has highlighted the true nature of our own democracy whereby a Prime Minister can take us in to an illegal War without our consent and yet is virtually impossible to remove," said Mr Stone. "Standing as a candidate in the district & borough elections is simple. You do not need to pay a deposit and you do not need to be in a political party." If you're interested in standing as a Stop The War candidate visit www.dorset-election.co.uk

An advertisement for Broadview Blinds Ltd. The logo features a stylized sun or window blind icon above the text "BROADVIEW Blinds LTD" and "EST. 1989". To the right, the text reads "Be Cool in the Shade with" followed by a partially visible word "with".

Anti-war party to field 10 election candidates

AN ANTI-war movement will be fielding more candidates in Dorset's local elections than anywhere else in the country.

The Dorset Stop the War movement has managed to register itself as a party and will be fielding 10 candidates across the county.

Four of these will be in Bournemouth, three in Poole, two in East Dorset and one in West Dorset.

Although all candidates are obviously opposed to the war Britain and America are currently fighting in Iraq, they would vote according to their own opinions on all local issues if they were elected.

Wimborne town councillor Damien Stone, who registered the party in March, said: "It will be interesting to see just how many votes these candidates will get."

"People are still very angry about the war and disillusioned with the main parties and

By Melanie Vass

this will give them the chance to express their views."

"People feel very strongly about this issue and I think we can attract support from all the different political parties and from people who in the past have given up on voting."

Cllr Stone, who himself is standing for election to East Dorset District Council, said if he was elected he would attempt to try and link Wimborne with a twin town in Iraq or Palestine.

But he added: "It's not just about the Iraq issue. All our candidates are concerned about public services in their local area."

"We would rather see the £5bn earmarked for war spent in our local communities. That money has never been more needed."



CANDIDATE: Cllr Damien Stone

250 in town-centre sit-down demo

Protest brings traffic to halt

PEACE protesters brought traffic in Bournemouth to a standstill last night when they held a sit-down in the town centre.

More than 250 people, wielding placards and emotive props including a child-sized coffin and death mask, marched from Bournemouth Pier Approach to the Square to demonstrate against war in Iraq.

Banging drums and blowing whistles and horns, the chanting crowd, including mothers pushing prams, made their way up Bath Hill and along Westover Road, where they sat down holding up traffic for 15 minutes. There was another sit-down outside McDonalds.

Some protesters even lay down in front of traffic and rolled across the road.

The protest, organised by Dorset Stop the War Coalition, began at 6pm and ended more than two hours later at the Eternal Flame in the Square, where protesters heard anti-war speeches.

One child stood in front of the crowd and

By Jenna Weekes and Fiona Pendlebury

shouted: "I'm protesting because I don't see why innocent people should die just because of an unjust war." Another said:

"This war is only for oil and we've got to stop it now."

Tom Barnard, 72, from Wareham, said: "I'm here because I believe that the opinion of Russia, Germany, France and over half the world's population should be listened to."

"I don't believe in war as a solution. They should have given the inspectors more time. I believe it will do untold damage to the world's economy."

Gard Michalsen, a Norwegian living in Poole, had "No to War" shaved into his head.

Sioux Talbot of Kinson, who carried a child-sized coffin with "Slaughter of the Innocents" written on the lid, said: "I'm just very sad that war has started. After all we've done nobody listens but it's too important to me to just give up."

A Poole protester wore a death mask to represent "the people in Iraq who in the next few hours will be lying like this".

Mohammed Hajj, an Iraqi living in Bournemouth, said: "If Iraqis decided they want to get rid of Saddam they will get rid of him - they would not accept a leader they don't like."

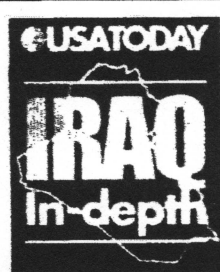
"I'm not supporting Saddam but I'm not accepting foreigners attacking my country. The war is terrible. The casualties will be civilians and innocent people."

Kathy, a member of Women in Black, said: "War doesn't solve anything - I hope people listen to our protests. If they don't I'm afraid all hell will break loose."



MOHAMMED Hajj

Keep up with the very latest from the war with Iraq by logging on to our live link: www.Iraq.usatoday.com



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Anti-war party to launch

DORSET'S newest political party has its formal launch in Wimborne today.

Eight of the 10 candidates of Dorset Stop the War will be at the public meeting to answer questions on their strategy for the local elections.

The party is fielding four candidates in Bournemouth, three in the Borough of Poole, two in East Dorset District and one in West Dorset.

The meeting, which is in the Town Hall, West Borough, starts at 8pm.

Meeting 'keeps up pressure' to quit war in Iraq

THE Dorset Stop The War Party is holding a public meeting in Wimborne Town Hall on Wednesday as a prelude to the launch of its local election campaign.

Wimborne councillor **Damian Stone**, who will be standing for both town and district seats in Wimborne, said: "It is important for us to continue piling the pressure on the Government in order to help bring about a swift end to the conflict in Iraq.

"Just because the fighting has now started does not mean that this war has become any more just or legal."

Only two other counties in the UK have Stop The War parties registered to field candidates for the local elections taking place on Thursday 1 May.

The meeting in Wimborne Town Hall begins at 8pm.

Peace campaigners in Blandford are continuing to hold a weekly candlelit vigil outside Blandford parish church on Sunday evenings.

Organiser **John Barclay** said: "There seems to be general support for this as long as the conflict continues.

"Thanks to a supporter, we now have some very impressive wax flares to increase the effect and make our banners readable."

● PRAYERS were said at the start of North Dorset District Council's meeting on Friday for the safe return of all those on active service, and chairman **Della Jones** said she had written to Royal Signals chief Brig **David McDowell**, expressing the council's support.

Anti-war group target district e

by Nicci Brown

Staff Reporter

e-mail newsdesk@westgaz.co.uk

A LOCAL peace campaigner is spearheading a campaign to target the forthcoming district council elections with anti-war candidates.

Damien Stone, a Wimborne town councillor who last month organised a well-attended meeting in Wimborne Minster at which guest speaker was Bruce Kent, said that already about a dozen people had said they would put their names forward as Stop-the-War candidates.

He said if Britain did not go to war against Saddam Hussein, the candidates would stand down.

"But I cannot see that happening," he said. "War will probably begin on 17 March and it will probably be over by polling day, 1 May, by which time thousands of innocent Iraqis will be dead.

"We will not, however, allow these crimes to be forgotten about or to go unpunished, and we want to give people in Dorset the chance to express their disgust at the ballot box by giving them the opportunity to vote for a Dorset Stop the War Candidate.

"If this undemocratic 'War on Terror' depends on us signing up to one new war after another, we want the Government to realise that this will not happen.

"We will aim to become a potent electoral force across the entire country, beginning with these local elections, followed by county council elections and finally at a general election.

"We are at a crucial moment in our history and the Government does not see the change that is taking place within our society. Citizens of nations across the world are saying that they do not want to kill each other."

Mr Stone was one of around 50 attending a public meeting called by North Dorset MP Bob Walter, which heard an impassioned plea from Iraqi-born Jamal Raouf of Bournemouth against an attack

on the country where many of his relatives still live.

"I lived there most of my life, and we lived under a dictatorship, no question about it, with a high level of oppression and no freedom of speech. But we had a good life, with good education and health care.

"I found more discrimination when I came here, and the only way forward is the peaceful way.

"Politicians are responsible for the Iraqi regime - Donald Rumsfeld sold Saddam Hussein weapons and is now saying he can't use them. It is like the drug dealer becoming prosecutor.

"But I have seen nothing being done diplomatically to engage in direct dialogue.

"We were a westernised country - my education was in English and we had to understand your culture.

"Iraqis would look up to people in this country if they went over there and sat down with them.

"You have British soldiers over there now, waiting for what? Iraq has not threatened the UK or USA, and there are thousands of Iraqi people living in this country who are frustrated because they want justice.

"Not a single Iraqi has been involved in terrorist attacks. What can we do to convince the rest that war is the wrong thing to do?"

The Dorset Stop the War coalition is organising various protests in and around Dorset following the demonstration in London on 15 February, including a rally in Bournemouth this Saturday.

Mr Stone said he would be launching his campaign at the rally, and posting details on the website at www.btinternet.com/~damien.stone/ of how to seek nomination to district councils across the county, which need to be made by the closing date of Tuesday 1 April.

He can be contacted by e-mail at damien.stone@btinternet.com or on 01202 887388 (evenings and weekends).

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Fighting war via ballot box

by Nick Heath

Staff Reporter
e-mail: newsdesk@westgaz.co.uk

A MAN who has always steered clear of politics is stepping into the front-line of local government to oppose the Iraq war.

David Partridge of West Allington, Bridport, believes coalition troops should come home before any more lives are lost.

He is the only West Dorset District Council candidate to stand for Dorset Stop The War Party.

The former nurse and computer salesman wants to spread his anti-war message beyond the 100-strong crowds who have been holding vigils at Bucky Doo Square in Bridport every Saturday since the middle of February.

Mr Partridge, who is standing for the Bridport South and Bothenhampton

Ward, said: "I would not be standing as a candidate if it was not for the war but this is the first opportunity that people have had to exercise what they think of Tony Blair's policies at the ballot box."

"I am a novice in this game but I am a reasonable businessman and I can not believe I will not be able to affect things."

"I was one of two million people who went up to London on the peace march and was totally ignored, but it will be harder for them to ignore the voters."

"It will become clear that it is not such a good idea to ride roughshod over the electorate."

He attacked the idea that taking soldiers off the battleground while the job was half done would do more harm than good.

"The long-term objective is peace. The thing to do is to bring the troops home as soon as possible," he said.

"A great many lives have already been lost and they are not going to come back whatever we do. The argument is to stop more lives being lost."

"If British troops pulled out of the coalition it would have a radical knock-on effect for the way things happen."

"If we give the impression that going to war without the United Nations is acceptable then it opens the door for countries like India attacking Pakistan."

"We have got to show that it does not work."

Mr Partridge says he will not stand down once the war is over and will continue to push for a society which no longer needs to go to war.

"My main objective is to put across we should not be fighting wars in this day and age. Even if they do not stop this war then we might stop the next one."

"I will be campaigning to move to a

much more green agenda, to obviate the need to raid Middle East countries for oil.

"I am looking at sustainable fuel supplies and not building so many cars. We need to scale things down and not be such a consumerist society."

Mr Partridge was born in Dublin but moved to Bournemouth when he was six months old and then to Hampshire. As a child he holidayed in Bridport and later returned to the area, first moving to Long Bredy, then to Bridport three years ago.

Mr Partridge is an occasional member of the Quaker group at the Friends Meeting House in South Street, Bridport. He is also an artist and the bold colours of his acrylic paintings of food were on show at Bridport Arts Centre until last weekend.



SPREADING MESSAGE: David Partridge of West Allington, Bridport, is standing for the Bridport South and Bothenhampton Ward for the Dorset Stop The War Party.